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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN E. NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sovereign of America, source of our unity, and strength of our lives, we praise You for the privilege of living in this land of freedom and opportunity. On this day of the State of the Union Address by President George W. Bush, we ask for Your continued blessing on him. We thank You for him, his firm faith in You, his courageous leadership in the battle against terrorism, and his commitment to seek what is best for America.

Today, we renew our loyalty to our President as Commander in Chief, our attentiveness to listen to his vision, and our thoughtful reflection on his convictions on issues. Most of all, when he stands before the joint session of Congress and the Nation, may he feel our friendship, esteem, and encouragement. Bless the First Lady, Laura Bush, Vice President CHENEY, the President's Cabinet, and all who work with him in confronting the crises of our world in this turbulent, terrorist-troubled time. Be with the Senators as they affirm their primary commitment to You, their patriotism for America, and their creative debate on the soul-sized issues before our Nation. God, bless America and both Houses of Congress on this important day. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 29, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN E. NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the Presiding Officer indicated, we will be in a period of morning business until 11 o'clock this morning. At 11 a.m. the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 622, the economic stimulus bill, with the Durbin unemployment insurance amendment pending. There will be 30 minutes of debate for that amendment, and at 11:30 we will vote.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today for weekly party conferences. I advise Members there are some amendments pending. The next two amendments in order will be those

from this side of the aisle. I say to anyone who has any debate they want to have in relation to these amendments or the bill itself, this afternoon would be a good time. The leader has not announced whether there will be more votes this afternoon, but there very likely could be more. As we know, this afternoon we have a number of other things going on here.

Tonight is that time of the year when we will have the President coming from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to give his State of the Union Address. We anticipate that with relish. We look forward to that, as well as seeing how we can help him in his battle against terrorism and working to defeat the economic crisis we have at home.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I join with the Senator from Nevada in urging people to come to the floor with amendments. I am pleased we have had the opportunity to present amendments. I think the bill initially was not adequate. We do need to do that, and we are going to have an opportunity. I urge all Members to do that. We need also, of course, to give some thought to our spending. It looks as if it will be a real issue. We will be spending out of control if we are not careful.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RONALD REAGAN BOYHOOD HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mr. REID. I ask consent the Senate proceed to Calender No. 307, H.R. 400.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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